

# CA Health and Human Service Agency Long-Term Care Council

## Recommended Short Term Priorities (September 2000-June 30, 2001)

*(These recommended priorities are responsive to the draft Mission and Value Statement and represent activities that the Council Members believe are achievable in the short term, prior to any new resources being available to implement a comprehensive strategic plan and the activities contained in that plan.*

*These proposed activities do provide a foundation for some of the long-range strategic activities under consideration and that can be discussed in greater detail at the next Long Term Care Council Meeting when the Governor's Budget Proposal has been released.)*

### **1. Seeking Input from Long Term Care Stakeholders**

The legislative intent in establishing the Long Term Care Council clearly spoke to improving access to, the coordination between, and the quality of long term care services from the consumers' perspective. Thus, establishing routine channels for the consumers' perspective to be heard is essential for the Council's efforts to be successful.

**SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:** The LTC Council's Executive Subcommittee will hold at least four Listening Sessions throughout the state to gain input from long-term care stakeholders, particularly consumers, their families and representatives, who cannot travel to Sacramento to be heard, to better understand their experiences and concerns. This process will occur in Fall 2000 to help shape the Council's strategic planning efforts. Other meetings will be scheduled in Spring 2001 to share the draft strategic plan.

Lead: Health and Human Services Agency (with the assistance of the departments on the Council and from stakeholders throughout the state)

### **2. Consumer Information Work Group**

The LTC Council's Executive Subcommittee will develop a workgroup to improve consumer information on long-term care options and aid them in their decision making, focusing both on the content and access to the information.

**SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:** Collect all available information and sort these materials into appropriate categories. Assess best instruments, vehicles, and methodologies for information distribution. Assess strategies to ensure access

(alternative format requirements, non-English language requirements; alternative media) to reach the diverse population in need of long term care services.

Lead: Department of Rehabilitation (with the assistance from other departments on the Council and stakeholders throughout the state.)

### **3. Challenge Grant Implementation**

The legislation authorizing the Challenge Grants requires the Department of Aging to involve the Long-Term Care Council in the implementation of this grant program. The Challenge Grants will focus on expanding community alternatives to nursing home placement.

**SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:** The Long-Term Care Council will provide input to the Department of Aging in the development of the Challenge Grant Request for Proposal (RFP); assist in the review of grant applications; participate in selection process, and provide input on the grant evaluation criteria and process.

Lead: CA Department of Aging (Note: Stakeholder technical assistance was provided through 8 statewide meetings to help potential applicants in understanding the RFP process and completing the application. Stakeholder input will also be encouraged in the development of the process for evaluating the projects funded by the grants.)

### **4. Coordinating Community LTC Services Work Group**

Programs and agencies at the local level have requested State level involvement to implement changes aimed at improving interagency coordination, streamlining the consumer referral process, and simplifying the state data reporting process.

**SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:** Improved interagency coordination among the Multi-purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), Linkages, In-Home Supportive Services (IHHS), and Adult Protective Services will be the primary focus.

Lead: CA Department of Aging (with the assistance of the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Social Services, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, the Health and Human Services Data Center and from stakeholders throughout the state.)

### **5. Assessment Tool(s) and Process for Transitions Into/Out of Nursing Facilities Work Group**

The existing assessment tools and process will be examined in identifying the consumer's health, mental health, housing, long-term care, and other supportive needs; the resources and supports available to them; and other options available to

them. The process for conducting these assessments should also be reviewed as we strive to help consumers understand their service options.

**SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES:** Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Operations Management and Policy Section will review their existing assessment tools and processes and develop any required new tool(s). These tools and processes will be submitted for review and comment by other departments on the LTC Council and stakeholders. Input will also be sought on the process for identifying consumers for assessment, where and when to conduct these assessments, who should be conducting these assessments, how would this process and information gathering tie into whatever the consumer's next steps may be, etc.

Lead: DHS (with the assistance of the other departments represented on the Council and from stakeholders throughout the state.)

## **6. Data Development Work Group**

Data on the characteristics of long-term care consumers being served, the types of services being utilized, and the expenditures involved is important in long-term care program and public policy planning.

**SHORT TERM:** A workgroup will be established to collect and inventory the long-term care data currently being collected by public programs at the State level.

Lead: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) (with the assistance of the other departments represented on the Council and from stakeholders throughout the state.)

## **7. Facility and Service Licensure Work Group**

The existing licensure requirements for in-home, residential, intermediate and skilled nursing facilities will be examined to develop recommendations that would further increase quality assurance; promote consistent public policy; encourage new models that provide care in more integrated setting; and that provide licensure flexibility for services to evolve as local needs change.

**SHORT TERM:** A workgroup will be established that will examine the current licensure types and requirements for home and community, residential, intermediate and skilled nursing providers/facilities; identify "best practices" from existing California programs and models from other states that may be worthy of consideration; and make recommendations for potential legislative/regulator action.

Lead: Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification and Medical Care Services; Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing (with the assistance of the other departments represented on the Council, the Board of Registered Nurses, State Fire Marshal, and stakeholders throughout the state.)

## **8. Continue the Long-Term Care Council's Strategic Planning Process**

The Long Term Care Council is required to statutorily conduct numerous strategic planning activities aimed at improving the coordination of, access to, and the quality of long-term care services.

**SHORT TERM:** Based on input from the Listening Sessions described in Item #1, the workgroup activities described above, the state budget process, and other related activities, the Long Term Care Council will continue to develop a draft Long Term Care Strategic Plan.

The Council will actively coordinate with the Caregivers Training Initiative and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee efforts. Beyond the specific workgroups delineated, the Council will also consider creative strategies for dealing with caregiver workforce issues.

**LEAD:** Health and Human Services Agency, (with the active involvement of the other departments represented on the Council and stakeholder input provided through Listening Sessions, Council Meetings, and the above mentioned workgroups.)